

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CU-04 NEA-14 DRC-01 /144 W

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R 250520Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5108

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DOD

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

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DEPT ALSO PASS AID/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS VS VN

SUBJECT: REFUGEE COMMEMORATION; OPERATION EXODUS

1. GVN IS PLANNING TO COMMEMORATE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION EXODUS, THE MOVEMENT OF ALMOST ONE MILLION NORTH VIETNAMESE TO SOUTH VIETNAM AFTER THE JULY 1954 CEASEFIRE. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION IS DRAFTING PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR PRESENTATION TO PRIME MINISTER THIS MONTH. GVN MAY DECIDE BEGIN COMMEMORATION LATTER PART AUGUST ON DATE OF ARRIVAL IN SOUTH OF FIRST NVN REFUGEES EVACUATED BY US NAVY IN OPERATION PASSAGE TO FREEDOM.

2. WE ANTICIPATE COMMEMORATION 1954 EVENTS WILL BE USED TO DEVELOP THEME THAT VIETNAMESE CHOOSE LIFE IN REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WHEN FREE TO MAKE CHOICE AS SHOWN BY 1954 EXODUS, CONTINUING FLIGHT OF REFUGEES TO GVN CONTROLLED TERRITORY, AND LARGE NUMBERS OF RALLIERS SINCE 1964.

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3. GVN PLANNING MULTIMEDIA APPROACH TO INCLUDE PRINTED MATERIALS, ELECTRONIC MEDIA OUTPUT, POSSIBLE RETURN VISITS TO VIETNAM OF CERTAIN AMERICANS WHO HELPED REFUGEES IN 1954.

4. GVN HAVING DIFFICULTY LOCATING HISTORICAL DATA AND MATERIALS TO DEVELOP PROGRAM HAS INSTRUCTED ITS INFORMATION OFFICES WASHINGTON AND PARIS TO SEEK NECESSARY MATERIALS.

5. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED ASSIST, BUT HAVE FOUND LIMITED PRINTED DATA AND NO VISUAL MATERIALS EITHER FILM CLIPS OR STILL PHOTOGRAPHS.

6. REQUEST ADDRESSEES SEARCH THEIR ARCHIVAL SOURCES FOR MATERIALS CIRCA 1954 DEALING WITH OPERATION EXODUS AND OPERATION PASSAGE TO FREEDOM AND LET US KNOW WHAT IS AVAILABLE. WE UNDERSTAND USN HISTORICAL DIVISION HAS PREPARED REPORT ON PASSAGE TO FREEDOM. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE REGARDING OTHER SOURCES, ESPECIALLY FOR VISUAL MATERIAL.

7. WHILE WE CONSIDER COMMEMORATION OF 1954 EXODUS TO BE WORTHWHILE PROJECT OF INTEREST TO U.S. AS WELL AS RVN, WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF ALLOWING GVN TO MAKE INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMEMORATION.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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